



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

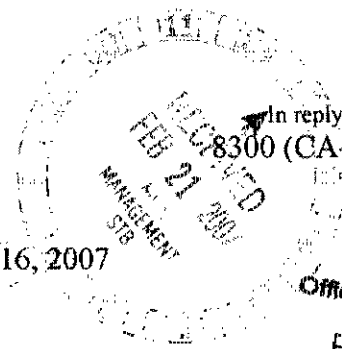
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In reply refer to:  
8300 (CA-320)P

February 16, 2007

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Public Record

Honorable Vernon Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 184x) Abandonment Exemption – Wendel-Alturas Line in Modoc and Lassen Counties, CA (Related to FD 32706);  
Request for Extension of NITU Negotiating Period

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alturas Field Office, with the concurrence of the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office, Lassen and Modoc Counties, and the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) requests a six month extension of the negotiation period for rail banking the Wendel-Alturas segment of the Modoc Line under the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) rules for Interim Trail Use and Rail Banking (49 CFR 1152.29).

The Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) negotiating period is currently scheduled to expire on March 3, 2007. This request is for an extension to September 3, 2007.

As outlined in our previous request for a six month extension, dated August 17, 2006, we expect to have an appraisal of the value of the Modoc Line in hand by February 23, 2007. The appraisal is being completed by Valentine Appraisals under contract to the American Land Conservancy, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Lassen Land and Trails Trust and Modoc and Lassen Counties.

A meeting with Union Pacific has also been tentatively scheduled for late February in Sacramento during which negotiations will proceed. We expect to finalize rail banking negotiations prior to September 3, 2007.

Our request for a six month extension is based on the following:

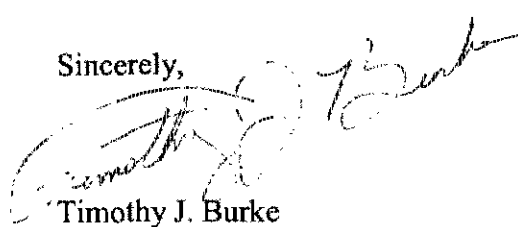
Our partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and American Land Conservancy has produced concrete results over the past six months and all agencies involved are aware of the urgency associated with completing NITU negotiations.

- The loss of the Modoc Line would be an economic blow to the rural economy of northeast California.
- UP is likely to realize greater economic benefit if the Modoc Line corridor is left intact.
- Modoc Line rail banking has the support of County Supervisors as well as State and Congressional representatives.

We appreciate your consideration of this request for an NITU negotiating period extension. We also request that you reaffirm the conditions that all bridges and culverts be left in place. As stated above, we believe this six month extension will allow us to complete NITU negotiations.

If you need additional information please contact me at 530-233-7904 or at [tburke@ca.blm.gov](mailto:tburke@ca.blm.gov).

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Burke  
Field Manager

cc:

M. Sattler, Union Pacific  
D. Barron, Eagle Lake Field Office  
J. Hanson, Lassen County Board of Supervisors  
D. Bradshaw, Modoc County Board of Supervisors  
J. Branham, Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
J. Elias, American Land Conservancy  
K. O'Toole, American Land conservancy